

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DURBAN 00519 031147Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /046 W

-----060773 031151Z /46

R 031000Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO USUN NEW YORK 218

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2635

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DURBAN 0519

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SWEL, SF

SUBJ: ST. PHILOMENA'S BUILDING FUND

REF: A. USUN 2392 B. DURBAN 157 (NOTAL)

1. ST. PHILOMENA'S IS A SMALL ORPHANAGE FOR COLORED GIRLS (APPROXIMATELY 80 CURRENTLY IN RESIDENCE) OPERATED BY A GROUP OF CATHOLIC NUNS AND WHITE LAYWOMEN. IT HAS AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN DURBAN AND THE COLORED COMMUNITY AND IS WELL KNOWN IN NATAL. IT IS A HIGHLY WORTHWHILE CHARITY WHICH HAS RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM A NUMBER OF GROUPS AND BUSINESSES INCLUDING SOME WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA. ITS NEW FACILITIES, NOW ALMOST COMPLETE, ARE AN IMPRESSIVE TESTAMENT TO THE HARD WORK OF THE STAFF AND THE MOTHER SUPERIOR, SISTER GENEVIEVE.

2. REFTEL B (SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO USUN 669, MARCH 8) DESCRIBED POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES BEING ENCOUNTERED BY ST. PHILOMENA'S IN CONNECTION WITH ITS FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN. BRIEFLY, THE SAG HAS INVESTIGATED THE HOME AND ITS SOURCES OF FINANCING, POSSIBLY AS THE RESULT OF AN APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHICH MCHUGH OF MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING SERVICES (MFS) SENT TO U.S. CORPORATIONS. IN SOME CASES THESE APPEALS WERE ALSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DURBAN 00519 031147Z

FORWARDED TO SOUTH AFRICAN AFILIATES OF THE U.S. CORPORATIONS, AND REPORTEDLY INCLUDED SOME COMMENTS CRITICAL OF THE SAG AND APARTHEID. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CONOFFS, SISTER GENEVIEVE HAS EXPRESSED HER CONCERN THAT SAG PRESSURE MIGHT INCREASE AND THE HOME MIGHT RISK BEING CLOSED IF IT BECAME CONTROVERSIAL. SHE BELIEVES IT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT ANY FURTHER WRITTEN APPEALS FOR FUNDS NOT CONTAIN STATEMENTS WHICH

THE SAG COULD REGARD AS CRITICAL OF ITS POLICIES. SHE  
RECENTLY HAS HAD DIFFICULTY RECEIVING MAIL FROM MFS AND SUSPECTS  
HER POST IS BEING INTERCEPTED BY SAG OFFICIALS LOOKING FOR  
INCRIMINATING LETTERS. SR. GENEVIEVE SAYS SHE RECENTLY  
TELEPHONED MCHUGH TO ADVISE HIM OF THIS PROBLEM.

3. AS FAR AS SR. GENEIVE AND POST KNOW, ONLY CONNECTION WITH  
MCHUGH IS AS A SALARIED EMPLOYEE OF MFS, A FIRM ENGAGED TO  
CONDUCT ST. PHILOMENA'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CAMPAIGN.  
ORPHANAGE'S PRESENT SITUATION DESCRIBED BY MCHUGH PARA 2,  
REF A, IS ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE.

4. RE ACTION REQUEST PARA 4 REF A, DEPARTMENT WOULD BE IN  
BETTER POSITION TO ADVISE ON MISSION REP'S ACTING AS ST.  
PHILOMENA PATRON (POST RECOLLECTION IS THAT EITHER BY RULE  
OR TRADITION, PRACTICE USUALLY IS AVOIDED BY USG EMPLOYEES).  
FROM LOCAL STANDPOINT, HOWEVER, INCREASED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT  
BY U.S. OFFICIALS CONCEIVABLY COULD DRAW GREATER SAG  
ATTENTION (WHICH ST. PHILOMENA'S DOES NOT WANT) OR RESULT  
IN RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THE HOME. POST UNDERSTANDS OTHER  
PROMINENT AMCITS SUCH AS ARTHUR ASHE AND SARGENT SHRIVER  
ARE MEMBERS OF THE ST. PHILOMENA BUILDING FUND AND HAVE  
ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE CAMPAIGN. POSSIBLY THEY COULD BE  
ENCOURAGED TO MAKE APPROACHES TO CORPORATIONS MENTIONED IN  
PARA 3 REFTEL A.

FARBER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DURBAN 00519 031147Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DURBAN00519  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770277-1309  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DURBAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197708102/aaaadjem.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 8792144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 USUN NEW YORK 2392  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1408588  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ST. PHILOMENA'S BUILDING FUND  
**TAGS:** SWEL, SEDU, SF, ST PHILOMENAS  
**To:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8792144f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009